City Commission Budget Meeting
September 8, 2025
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Adrian Petrila, Mayor
Karen Marriott, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 1
Lisa Robinson, Commissioner, District 2
Betty Rzewnicki, Commissioner, District 3
Jon Maldonado, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:
Frances Robustelli, City Manager
Ralf Brookes, City Attorney
Renee Rose, City Clerk
Devon Schmidt, Finance Director

Mayor Petrila called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: **Vice Mayor Marriott moved, Commissioner Maldonado seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the September 8, 2025 City Commission Budget Meeting Agenda.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
No members of the public came forward.

3. ORDINANCES

a. First reading of Ordinance 2025-18: Establishing the Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING AND ANNOUNCING THE NAME OF THE TAXING AUTHORITY, THE ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE RATE, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER THE ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE RATE, AND THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR READING IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Finance Director Devon Schmidt provided a presentation which is made part of the meeting record. The ordinance proposes a millage rate of 3.0913 mills per $1,000 of taxable value, which is 8.889% below the rolled-back rate of 3.1189 mills, representing approximately $140,000 less in ad valorem revenue. She said this reflect the Commission's decision to keep the millage rate unchanged for FY2026 to ease the financial burden on residents following the hurricanes. She provided a review of millage changes across City, County, School, EMS, and other districts from 2020–2025. She explained the calculation of projected ad valorem revenue: applying the adopted millage rate to taxable value and factoring in the 4% discount (with an estimated 70% utilization), resulting in projected millage revenue of approximately $15.1 million for FY2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No members of the public came forward.

Motion: **Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Vice Mayor Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-18: Establishing the Millage Rate as 3.0913 for Fiscal Year 2026.**

b. First reading of Ordinance 2025-19: Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR READING IN ITS

ENTIRETY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
Finance Director Devon Schmidt provided a presentation which is made part of the meeting record. She noted that the budget was developed through five workshops, with input from the Finance Budget Review Committee (FBRC), and all items had been reviewed in prior sessions.

For governmental funds, the budget reflects $67.2 million in revenues and $86.7 million in expenditures. For proprietary (enterprise) funds, total revenues are $23.3 million with $36 million in expenditures. Including all revenues, transfers, and expenditures across all funds, the FY2026 budget totals $90.6 million in revenues and $122.8 million in expenditures, with the difference of $32.2 million covered by existing fund balances for one-time capital projects. The budget authorizes 159.6 FTE positions, with the largest staffing allocations in Fire/EMS (44 FTEs) and Public Services. She highlighted several capital projects being reappropriated into FY2026, including the Community Center seawall replacement, Watershed Management Plan, 36th Avenue seawall replacement, Merry Pier bait shack rebuild, Don Cesar baffle structures and outfall improvements, tide check valve replacements, four-wheel drive vehicles in the Building Fund, and the City Hall audio-visual project.

The FY2026 Capital Improvement Plan totals $58.7 million, broken down as follows:

- $134,000 – General Fund Capital
- $195,000 – Building Fund
- $5.7 million – Resiliency Fund
- $31.2 million – Capital Improvement Fund
- $1 million – Fleet Fund
- $15.5 million – Wastewater Fund
- $700,000 – Reclaimed Water Fund
- $3.8 million – Stormwater Fund
- $300,000 – Parking Fund

Ms. Schmidt said the budget is a “living document” and can be amended as needed by Commission action.

Mayor Petrila said that while no additional questions were raised tonight, the FY2026 budget has been thoroughly reviewed in prior workshops, including a detailed discussion lasting over an hour and a half at the last meeting. The lack of questions is because they’ve already gone through all the iterations of the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No members of the public came forward.

Motion: **Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Maldonado seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-19.**

Mayor Petrila noted it was appropriate that Commissioner Rzewnicki made the motion to approve the budget, recognizing her long-term efforts that led to inclusion of key stormwater and resiliency projects, like tidal check valves, seawalls, and baffle boxes, particularly benefiting the Don Cesar neighborhood and Belle Vista area. Commissioner Rzewnicki appreciated staff’s work in aligning Commission priorities with resident feedback and for the years of workshops and planning that made these projects possible.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 2025-20: Establish Rate of Stormwater Service Assessments

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF STORMWATER SERVICE ASSESSMENTS; APPROVING STORMWATER SERVICE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLLS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Finance Director Devon Schmidt provided a presentation which is made part of the meeting record. These non–ad valorem property assessments are imposed each year to fund the operation and maintenance of the City's stormwater infrastructure and are collected on residents' property tax bills. The assessment process follows a procedure similar to adoption of the millage rate and budget. The assessment structure includes two tiers:

- Tier 1 – A flat per-parcel assessment to cover general program costs.
- Tier 2 – A variable assessment based on impervious surface area, using an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of 3,813 square feet, which represents the average impervious area of a single-family parcel.

For FY2026 (beginning October 1, 2025), no changes are proposed to the existing assessment rates. The Tier 1 rate will remain at $64.32 per parcel, and the Tier 2 rate will remain at $119.43 per ERU.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public came forward.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Marriott moved, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve Resolution 2025-20.**

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

RENEE ROSE
CITY CLERK

Karen Marriott

KAREN MARRIOTT
VICE MAYOR